

CLINTON BUDGET NOT BALANCED

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office has weighed in on President Clinton's plan to balance the budget in 10 years. Their conclusions were not too, shall we say, promising.

CBO concludes that Clinton's new budget would not even come close to balancing in the year 2005. They predict the deficit that year will be \$209 billion, about what it is today.

During his first State of the Union Address, Bill Clinton sang the praises of the CBO. Now, the differences between his numbers and CBO's numbers are passed off as merely a difference of opinion between policy wonks.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's budget is a sham. If he were serious about balancing the budget, he would get serious about the Federal Government's spending problem.

Instead of a real balanced budget, all Bill Clinton proposes is a plan to protect big government.

INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, before the House institutes instant replay, I would like to talk about the Constitution in another way. Under the Constitution, an American citizen once accused shall be considered innocent and the accuser shall be held accountable for the credibility and reliability of those accusations and shall bear the burden of proof.

It is simple. It is logical. It is fair. It is American. It is right to the point.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, when did the Washington bureaucrats reach into the Constitution and in a tax case allow the IRS to treat the American people like indentured servants, like criminals, like noncitizens, like chattel. Unbelievable.

H.R. 390 says, any time an American taxpayer is in a court over a tax proceeding, they shall be considered innocent, and the IRS shall have the burden of proof. That is simple. That is logical. That is fair. By God, that is American.

If we want to talk about the people's business, let us pass H.R. 390.

RULE ON VOTE TIME

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Let us wait just a minute, folks, with all the screaming and wrapping of the righteous robes of indignation around your bodies about what happened here yesterday. The rule was established at the outset of this session. We are not going to do it

like we did in the old days. We are not going to slop over for 30 minutes on the votes. We are going to have 15-minute votes. Those 15-minute votes, because sometimes there are unexplainable circumstances, those 15-minute votes sometimes will wait until 17 minutes. The vote yesterday was 17 minutes. But I guess some Members are slow learners and they habitually wander in here after the 17 minutes and say, one more, one more, let us vote.

We were here. Where were those two Members when everybody else had voted within the 17 minutes? Where were those two Members who feel like they were so wronged yesterday? They had the same time we did. I guess they had things that were more important to do than to be on this floor and vote within that 17-minute limit.

We are here to try to change Congress and change this country. You are just trying to change the subject.

ARROGANT ABUSE OF POWER

(Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have been in this body for 22 long years and never have I seen the arrogant abuse of power that I saw here yesterday.

Now the funny thing about it, I sat here for an hour and a half this morning. Thirty minutes of that time was spent on the vote that was called to vote on the record, a 30-minute vote. Check the video. Check the clock. Check the timekeeper. You will find that is the case.

Now, 30 long minutes, yet you cannot allow a Member time to get here to vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. I say to my colleagues, money is important. Everybody likes money. I like money. The Democrats like money. Republicans like money. But not at the expense should anybody leave this body to go to a fundraiser, a fundraiser in New York when business is going on to represent the people in this country.

The House of Representatives and the millions of people that we represent deserve better than that, deserve to have their voices heard, deserve to have their votes cast by those of us they send here to cast their ballots for them.

Let me tell you something else, money is the root of all evil, and you did an evil thing yesterday when you left here and did not do the people's business.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to set the record straight. Yesterday I was in the Committee on

Science when the chairman laid out the rules for the vote that was going to precede the vote that came on the floor.

What happened is the opposition to this tried to filibuster in the Committee on Science and then alleged that they missed the votes here. The chairman stayed throughout all debate. He then left the Committee on Science, came here and was able to register his vote. But still the charge is arrogance.

Today I just left the Committee on Science. I just revoted on the very same amendment. It was allowed. We were considerate and yet no apology, just a charge of arrogance. When are we going to have some reality and some consideration on the floor of this House?

I think it is time that we act like gentlewomen and gentlemen as we so profusely proclaim on the floor of this House.

THE REPUBLICANS' ARROGANCE

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about setting the record straight. Listen to this. Listen to this, you people on the other side of the aisle who simply do not get it. This country is about the right to vote.

I was in this Chamber yesterday. I am a witness. I saw it all. There were two Members standing at the very place I stand this minute, filling out cards, attempting to vote, attempting to represent over a million Americans. A million Americans were denied their right to vote yesterday, and why? There are two simple reasons: The Republicans were losing the vote and they could not stand that in this era of lock-step, almost Nazi-esque obedience.

Second, they were going to a fundraiser. It says right here, the GOP went to great lengths to make sure its Members got to the party on time.

Let us do not forget this, my colleagues. It is about their arrogance, and they never apologized for it. They just said: We will let you vote again. That is not right.

LET US GET ON WITH THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the beltway mentality that exists here never ceases to amaze me. The votes on this issue, had they been cast, would not have changed the result of the vote to begin with. But the real crime here is that the people in my district at least have some real concerns.

For example, I have some senior citizens in my district who are concerned about Medicare. And yet while your party decides that they want to complain and carp about a time limit on a

vote, you all suggest that we are not going to deal with the Medicare problem. The President himself has admitted that Medicare goes bankrupt in 7 years. Yet your party decides to refuse to address the issue.

Which is more important? Squabbling about these votes or getting to the business of the people and addressing issues like Medicare?

Mr. Speaker, I am tired of the partisan bickering. I seldom take part in these partisan debates; I prefer to deal with issues, issues like Medicare. Let us get on with the people's business.

WE SHOULD ALL LIVE BY THE SAME RULES

(Ms. FURSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I have a history. I have lived in countries that were not democracies. I want to say something about democracy. In a democracy trust is the major component. In a democracy, it is not the military who makes the rules; we make the rules. We, the people, make the rules, and we trust we will all live by them.

The Republican leadership said there will be 17-minute votes. Yet today we have a 30-minute vote. So who can we trust?

That is why, they say, they denied those two Members coming down from here into the well to vote. I was standing right here, Mr. Speaker. I pointed to those Members. I said, Mr. Speaker, there are Members. It is on the videotape.

Mr. Speaker, if we lost the trust in this institution, we lose what is best about a democracy. We all make the rules. We all live by the same rules.

METHINKS THOU DOTTH PROTEST TOO MUCH

(Mr. EMERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have actually sat here this morning and listened to all of the righteous indignation being expressed. There was a perceived wrong in the House, and the majority leader, in an act of magnanimity that I have never witnessed in my 15 years here, and, believe me, when we were in the minority, there were many perceived and real acts perpetrated that were not only perceived, they were real acts of wrongdoing, procedurally. This House was never offered the means to address the perception of wrong, in those days. But now the offer has been made, and it was unanimously agreed to.

I think with what is going on here this morning, there is—I would have to refer a little bit to Shakespeare here: Methinks thou doth protest too much. For the lack of an agenda of substance, you want to quibble about a procedural

issue that is, in fact, being addressed and addressed in a very reasonable, up front and correct manner.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE DENIED REPRESENTATION

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, a frightening thing happened yesterday. Two votes that would have changed the outcome of House action were denied. In addition to the disenfranchisement of two Members, 1 million American people were also denied representation on that vote. What does this kind of capriciousness do to our democracy? What was so important that the business of the House had to be shut down?

Was it the "Salute to Newt" that took place in New York last night? What does this say about the integrity of the vote under Republican rule?

Republicans want to deny potential voters with the repeal of motor-voter. Republicans want to deny real voters by invalidating election results in California and North Carolina. And how we see that they are willing to even deny elected Members the right to vote on the floor of the House if it does not fit in with their outcome.

Mr. Speaker, this bodes ill for the people of America. This is going too far. They are extremists, and they cannot be trusted.

U.S. COAST GUARD COMMENDED FOR LEADING FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS AND VIOLENT DRUG CARTELS

(Mr. ZELIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Coast Guard is leading the charge against a force that is now our No. 1 national security threat—illegal drugs and violent drug cartels.

Last week, as chairman of the National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, I led a congressional delegation to the front lines in the drug war. We went to the 7th Coast Guard District. What we saw was both impressive and disturbing.

Impressive, because we saw brave men and women in the air and on the sea, putting their lives at risk, in the drug transit zone, hunting narcotraffickers. They are out there protecting our kids and our grandchildren. And they need our help.

Disturbing, because our Nation has badly underestimated the threat posed by drugs and the drug cartels. The interdiction effort needs our support. Congress and President Clinton have to lead.

In the past 2 years, drug use has skyrocketed. But the priority on drug interdiction has fallen. We flew in Falcon jets. But 4 of the region's 10 Fal-

cons have been retired. We flew in HH-60 helicopters. But the pilots have lost radars, aerostats, and their only C-130 AWAC. Resources are at rock bottom, when they should be at the top.

We saw 5,000 pounds of drugs interdicted by the brave souls on the Coast Guard Cutter *Mellon*. But the raw truth is: The drug cartels are killing us as surely as any foreign enemy. It has got to stop.

From the frontlines, I say to my colleagues and I say to President Clinton, let us get drugs at the top of the national agenda.

To the Coast Guard I say, thank you. You are doing important and dangerous work, and we appreciate it.

CORPORATE FAT CATS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, let us put a little focus on what this article points out. The reason we adjourned the House early on Wednesday afternoon, what every other American thinks is a regular workday, we adjourned early afternoon so people could run to corporate jets owned by tobacco companies and insurance companies, so they could traipse off and go to New York City, where the New York fat cats were waiting to stuff their coffers with money. If they kept those fat cats waiting, they might not have stuffed so much in the pocket.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of the people who, after the first 100 days, went to this dome, and some were angry for holding up a sold sign, but let me tell the Members, every day it appears to me we are selling this place out. I do not want this to become a coin-operated legislative machine.

Yes, have fundraisers, but have them at night, have them on weekends. Do not have them on Wednesday afternoon with corporate jets escorting Members back and forth, so they do not upset the fat cats, so they will give them lots of money. That is why the American people are really concerned about this sacred trust we have called democracy. It is not totally dead yet, but I will tell the Members, it is in danger, as of today.

GAMES IN THE HOUSE

(Mr. PAXON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, there is sanctimony dripping from the ceiling. I want to set the record straight. I see my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] standing here. I would remind the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], who just stood and talked about scheduling events on weekends and at times the House is not in session, that the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO],